AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please the amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A belt for a continuously variable transmission, which is wound around a drive pulley and a driven pulley for transmitting a driving force between both the pulleys, the belt comprising a pair of metal ring assemblies each formed of a plurality of endless metal rings laminated one on another, and a large number of metal elements each having a ring slot into which each of the metal ring assemblies are fitted, wherein

an endless resilient member which is deformable radially is disposed between a radially outer edge of each of the ring slots in the metal elements and a radially outer peripheral surface of each of the metal ring assemblies;

~~wherein a clearance is set between the radially inner peripheral surface of the resilient member and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly~~

wherein a radial thickness of said endless resilient member is set smaller than a distance between the radially outer edge of each ring slot and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly when supported on a radially inner end of the ring slot and a shock to be acted from the metal element on the metal ring assembly during operation of the transmission is buffered by said resilient member being resiliently deformed in a radial direction.

2. (Currently Amended) A belt for a continuously variable transmission, which is wound around a drive pulley and a driven pulley for transmitting a driving force between both the pulleys, the belt comprising a metal ring assembly formed of a

plurality of endless metal rings laminated one on another, and a large number of metal elements each having a ring slot into which the metal ring assembly is fitted,

wherein an endless resilient member which is deformable radially is disposed between a radially outer edge of the ring slot in the metal element and a radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly; and,

~~wherein the peripheral length of the radially inner peripheral surface of an innermost surface of the endless resilient member is set longer than that of the radially outer peripheral surface of an outermost metal ring of the metal ring assembly~~

wherein a radial thickness of said endless resilient member is set smaller than a distance between the radially outer edge of each ring slot and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly when supported on a radially inner end of the ring slot and a shock to be acted from the metal element on the metal ring assembly during operation of the transmission is buffered by said resilient member being resiliently deformed in a radial direction.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 1 wherein the clearance is set at 0.10 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 2 wherein a clearance is set between the radially inner peripheral surface of the resilient member and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly.

6. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 5 wherein the clearance is set at 0.10 mm.

7. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 3 wherein a further clearance is set between the radially outer edge of each of the ring slots and a radially outer peripheral surface of the associated resilient member.

8. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 7 wherein said further clearance is smaller than said clearance between the radially inner peripheral surface of the resilient member and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly.

9. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 5 wherein a further clearance is set between the radially outer edge of the ring slot and a radially outer peripheral surface of the resilient member.

10. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 9 wherein said further clearance is smaller than said clearance between the radially inner peripheral surface of the resilient member and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) A belt for a continuously variable transmission, which is wound around a drive pulley and a driven pulley for transmitting a driving force between both the pulleys, the belt comprising a metal ring assembly formed of a

plurality of endless metal rings laminated one on another, and a large number of metal elements each having a ring slot into which the metal ring assembly is fitted,

wherein said metal ring assembly is interposed between the radially outer edge of the ring slot and a saddle face of the metal element constituting a radially inner edge of said ring slot,

wherein an endless resilient member which is deformable radially is disposed between said radially outer edge of the ring slot and a radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly; and

~~wherein the peripheral length of the radially inner peripheral surface of an innermost surface of the endless resilient member is set longer than that of the radially outer peripheral surface of an outermost metal ring of the metal ring assembly~~

wherein a radial thickness of said endless resilient member is set smaller than a distance between the radially outer edge of each ring slot and the radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly when supported on the saddle face of the metal element and a shock to be acted from the metal element on the metal ring assembly during operation of the transmission is buffered by said resilient member being resiliently deformed in a radial direction.

12. (Previously Presented) The belt of claim 1 wherein the peripheral length of the radially inner peripheral surface of each of the inner most resilient members is set longer than that of the radially outer peripheral surface of the outermost ring of each of the pair of metal ring assemblies.

13. (New) The belt of claim 1, wherein the resilient member has a widthwise-central portion curved radially outwards in a convex shape.

14. (New) The belt of claim 2, wherein the resilient member has a widthwise-central portion curved radially outwards in a convex shape.

15. (New) The belt of claim 11, wherein the resilient member has a widthwise-central portion curved radially outwards in a convex shape.